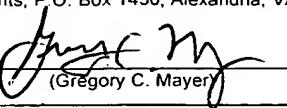


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: February 5, 2007

Signature:

  
(Gregory C. Mayer)

Docket No.: 28594/41992  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Patent Application of:

Robert N. SOFOULIS

Application No.: 10/575,841

Filed: April 13, 2006

Art Unit: 0

For: PROTECTIVE SHROUD

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

A full translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(ii), Applicant has not submitted copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an

admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 28594/41992. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

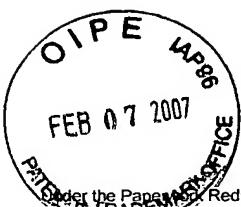
Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Attorney for Applicant

**February 5, 2007**



PTO/SB/08A/B (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/575,841
				Filing Date	April 13, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Robert N. Sofoulis
				Art Unit	0
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	28594/41992

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
A*	US-6,130,945		10-10-2000	Shin	
B*	US-6,754,344-B2		06-22-2004	Kohli et al.	

<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
C	UK-GB 2 267 012 A		11-17-1993	Argus Doss-Desouza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. \* CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (\*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<b>NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>					
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D		<i>International Search Report</i> corresponding to International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US2004/001409, Australian Patent Office, dated December 10, 2004, 2 pages.			<input type="checkbox"/>
E		<i>Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority</i> corresponding to International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/AU2004/001409, Australian Patent Office, dated December 10, 2004, 4 pages.			<input type="checkbox"/>
F		<i>International Preliminary Report On Patentability</i> corresponding to International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/AU2004/001409, Australian Patent Office, dated October 20, 2005, 6 pages.			<input type="checkbox"/>

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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Application No. (if known): 10/575,841

Attorney Docket No.: 28594/41992

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